IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY

O. O. C. J.

WRIT PETITION NO.2402 OF 2006

Hindustan Lever Research Centre
Employees' Union ..Petitioner.

Vs.

Hindustan Lever Limited & Ors. ..Respondents.

....

Ms. Jane Cox with Mr. Bennet D'Costa for the Petitioner.
Mr. K.M. Naik with Mr. S.P. Salkar for Respondent No.1.

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CORAM: DR. D.Y. CHANDRACHUD, J.

20th November, 2006.

P.C. :

The interference of this Court against the interlocutory order of the Industrial Court dated 14th July, 2006 is not warranted under Article 226 of the Constitution. The reference is still pending and the Industrial Court has noted that the management was paying an amount of Rs.1,500/- per month in addition since 1998 to the workmen by way of a unilateral extension of benefits. The Industrial Court has also noted that the average wages per employee are approximately Rs.17,000/- per month which is more than the wages paid by comparable concerns. At the present stage it is not appropriate for this Court to entertain this Petition

since the issues which arise in the reference would have to be adjudicated on the basis of evidence. While disposing of this Petition, it is, however, expressly made clear that neither the impugned order of the Tribunal nor the observations contained in the present order which are confined to the disposal of the application for interim relief shall come in the way of a final adjudication on merits.

Before parting with the matter, it would be appropriate if a direction is issued to the Tribunal to expedite the disposal of the reference. The Tribunal shall endeavour to do so on or before 30th June, 2007. The Petition is dismissed.